

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A liquid-absorbent composition, comprises:

a powder of a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin produced by crosslinking a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound, and a binder resin.

2. (Original) The liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1, wherein said

powder has an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent composition according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~,

~~Claim 1~~, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

4. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent composition according to ~~any of Claims 1~~

~~to 3~~, Claim 1, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

5. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent composition according to ~~any of Claims 1~~

~~to 4~~, Claim 1, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

6. (Original) A liquid-absorbent sheet, comprising a supporting substrate and formed on one side thereof a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin layer produced by crosslinking a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound.

7. (Original) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein an adhesive layer is formed on the other side of the supporting substrate.

8. (Original) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein said liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin layer contains a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

9. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to any of Claims 6 to 8, Claim 6, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

10. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to any of Claims 6 to 9, Claim 6, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

11. (Currently Amended) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to any of Claims 6 to 10, Claim 6, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

12. (Original) A method for manufacturing a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin, comprising dissolving a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer in an amount of 3 to

35 wt% in a solvent with an SP value of 9 to 14, and adding a polyfunctional isocyanate compound to this solution to perform a crosslinking reaction.

13. (Original) The manufacturing method according to Claim 12, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

14. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method according to ~~Claim 12 or 13, Claim 12,~~ wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

15. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 14, Claim 12,~~ wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

16. (Currently Amended) A nonaqueous electrolyte battery pack, comprising a battery case and disposed within the battery case a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, a wiring circuit board, and an electrolyte absorption member for absorbing electrolyte in the event that electrolyte leaks from a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, wherein said electrolyte absorption member is formed from the liquid-absorbent composition according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 5, Claim 1.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A nonaqueous electrolyte battery pack, comprising a battery case and disposed within the battery case a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, a wiring

circuit board, and an electrolyte absorption member for absorbing electrolyte in the event that electrolyte leaks from a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, wherein said electrolyte absorption member is formed from the liquid-absorbent composition or liquid-absorbent sheet according to any of Claims 6 to 11. Claim 6.